



## MAINE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

23 State House Station  
AUGUSTA, MAINE

04333

### STATE OF MAINE

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The State Board of Education held a regular monthly meeting on February 20, 2007, at the Burton M. Cross State Office Building, ATM Room 103, Augusta with the following members present: Chair James Carignan, Vice Chair Philip Dionne, Ellie Multer, Janet Tockman, Jack Norris, and Ann Weisleder. Via Phone: Joyce McPhetres. Excused: Jean Gulliver

Also present were: Commissioner Susan Gendron; Scott Brown, AIA, Director School Facilities; and Rhonda Casey, Clerk.

### **CALLED TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

MAJOR CAPITAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM; WAIVER OF THE DESIGNATED YEAR TO ACHIEVE CONCEPT APPROVAL FOR FIVE (5) MAJOR CAPITAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

RECEIPT OF THE REVIEW TEAM REPORT CONCERNING THE LOYOLA UNIVERSITY REQUEST TO OFFER ITS GRADUATE LEVEL ACADEMIC CREDIT PROGRAMS IN MAINE

MOVED by Ellie Multer, seconded by Ann Weisleder, and voted six in favor to approve the consent agenda.

### **REGULAR BUSINESS:**

MAJOR CAPITAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM; CONCEPT APPROVAL CONSIDERATION; SAD 46, DEXTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Statement of Fact: SAD #46 was not on the original 1999-2000 Special Priority List, but was included at a later date because school construction bids came in below projections creating a balance sufficient to fund an additional project.

The project got off to a very slow start because the leadership in the Department of Education encouraged a consolidation of high schools in the region that would have allowed Dexter Middle School to use the present Dexter High School to solve its housing problems.

Following the failure of the secondary consolidation effort, SAD #46 and the Department of Education carefully evaluated the present school site in Dexter. The present site had a number of issues with safety being a high priority. The decision was to move off the present site and construct a school on a new site close to the village of Dexter.

SAD #46 proposed to use the Major Capital project to consolidate the elementary schools in the district. The new school will result in the closing of two schools in Dexter, a school in Exeter, and a school in Garland. The new building will also house the Superintendent's Office, which is currently in a very old district owned building, and the special education office, which is in leased space in another location. The project will result in SAD #46 operating and maintaining only three schools: the high school, the vocational center, and the new Pre K-8 school.

This Concept Approval is being requested pursuant to M.R.S.A. Title 20-A, Section 15905(1).

Project Information:

Project: SAD #46 Pre K-8 Elementary School in Dexter, Maine

Superintendent: Kevin Jordan

Principals: Julianna Richard and Timothy McCluskey

Architect: Steve Blatt, AIA, Stephen Blatt Architects

Proposed Schools Closed: Dexter Primary School, Dexter Middle School, Garland Elementary School, and Exeter Consolidated School.

Superintendent Jordan has provided the following project description statement:

The new SAD #46 Pre K-8 school will replace four existing school facilities that currently serve the communities of Dexter, Exeter, and Garland. A previously closed facility in Ripley which is now used on a limited basis will also cease operations. Currently, the Dexter Middle School houses 235 students, the Dexter Primary School houses 287 students, the Exeter School houses 49 students, and the Garland School houses 79.

The basic purpose of the proposed project is to provide a facility which allows the students of this district to meet and exceed all requirements of the Maine Learning Results. The facility that now houses the Dexter Middle School was originally the high

school for the students of Dexter. It has since been converted to a middle school with limited opportunity for program development. The Dexter Primary School along with the Exeter and Garland Elementary Schools all have out-dated facilities that do not meet the educational needs of today's curriculum. These schools also have several portable classrooms to alleviate space issues.

The new consolidated SAD #46 PreK-8 school will bring together three student populations into one facility maximizing district and state assets and providing a facility which will serve the communities in many capacities. The SAD #46 School Board has recently voted to support Pre-K education in our community with space provided in the new school.

This project will not only allow for more comprehensive and equitable educational opportunities for all of the students in our district but also provide the tax payers with savings as we move forward with four fewer schools to operate and maintain.

This new school will provide the students of SAD #46 an improved opportunity to meet both local and state educational goals and continue to maintain all of the positives provided by a small school. The new school is designed with a small neighborhood concept keeping students in each educational area for two years and providing support services in each area with minimal travel within the school.

The construction of this school will provide internal consolidation within SAD #46 and create a facility which will be more efficient and improve the educational opportunities of SAD #46 students for years to come.

Project Budget Information:

Estimated Total Project Cost: \$30,587,000

Approved for State/Local Debt Service Subsidy: \$29,905,000

Local Only Cost: \$562,000

Anticipated Maine High Performance Schools Energy Grant: \$120,000

Construction Committee Recommendation: At its meeting on February 7, 2007, the Construction Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the State Board of Education grant Concept Approval to SAD #46 for and Pre K-8 elementary school construction project located in Dexter, Maine.

Commissioner Recommendation: The Commissioner recommends that the State Board grant Concept Approval to SAD #46 for a Pre K-8 elementary school in Dexter, Maine, and approve the Concept budget as presented.

MOVED BY Ellie Multer, seconded by Ann Weisleder, and voted unanimously voted by those present to grant Concept Approval to SAD #46 for a Pre K-8 elementary school in Dexter, Maine, and approve the Concept Budget as presented.

Joyce McPhetres joined the Board meeting via telephone at 11:40 a.m.

**MAJOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM; SITE APPROVAL  
CONSIDERATION; WESTBROOK SCHOOL DEPARTMENT – NEW GRADE 6-8  
MIDDLE SCHOOL PROJECT**

Statement of Fact: Superintendent of Schools Stanley Sawyer requests that the State Board of Education approve a site in Westbrook, Maine, for a new grade 6-8 middle school.

The proposed 65 acre site is located on Stroudwater Street and is a half mile from the high school, the vocational school, and an elementary school.

The site analysis and selection process for the Westbrook Middle School was the most extensive process yet undertaken. Because the present Wescott School was considered a viable structure in many ways, the Department of Education was very reluctant to leave the site and abandon the facility as a middle school. After months of research, cost estimating, and engineering studies, it was determined that the problems posed at the Westcott site could not be overcome.

The issues included but were not limited to traffic congestion and safety, site access and egress, power line and gas line encroachments, very extensive ledge removal, environmental issues including two vernal pools, and issues with an older open concept school. The costs to keep the school on the existing site far exceeded the costs of building on a new site; and had the school remained on the existing site, the athletic fields, parking, and circulation would have been compromised. Although the Wescott School will no longer serve as Westbrook's middle school, the building will be utilized for both educational and community purposes. At present, there is a local committee evaluating a number of needs and options for future use of the facility.

A very extensive site application is on file with the Department of Education that details all studies of the various sites including details of the site searches in the City of Westbrook. The application contains correspondence with all appropriate state and local agencies. All agencies have responded with one exception. No official response has been received from the State Planning Office, though the Department, the architect, and the owner have all attempted to stimulate a response.

The selected site will require some off-site costs in order to get sewer, water and safe pedestrian travel to the school. The State has budgeted on site costs and off-site costs mandated by the Maine Department of Transportation. Other expenses related to the site are local only costs.

Appraisals of the site exceeded the price paid by the City of Westbrook. However, the site size of 65 acres exceeds the middle school maximum allowed by 34 acres. At an average price of \$15,229 per acre, the State/local amount would be \$472,099 and the local only amount would be \$517,801.

Project Information:

Project: Westbrook Middle School (Grades 6-8)  
Superintendent: Stanley Sawyer  
Principal: Brian Mazjanis  
Architect: Harriman Associates  
Total number of acres: 65  
Total number of acres eligible for State support: 31  
Purchase cost: \$989,900  
Appraised value: \$997,000  
Amount eligible for State support: \$472,099  
Amount of Local-Only cost: \$517,801

Construction Committee Recommendation: At its meeting on February 7, 2007, the Construction Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the State Board of Education grant Site Approval to Westbrook School Department for a new middle school construction project located in Westbrook, Maine.

Commissioner Recommendation: The Commissioner recommends that the State Board of Education approve the site and finances as presented for the construction of a new 6-8 middle school in Westbrook, Maine, under the provisions of Chapter 61, Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects. The State-subsidized cost of the site acquisition is \$472,099, and the school system cost without State participation is \$517,801. The total cost of the site is \$989,900.

MOVED by Ellie Multer, seconded by Ann Weisleder, and voted seven (7) in favor to grant Site Approval to Westbrook School Department for a new middle school construction project located in Westbrook, Maine.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:**

Commissioner Gendron reported on the following:

- That she has been meeting with several key groups concerning the draft proposal for the Perkins Plan. Jackie Soychak will be assuming the responsibility of finalizing the Perkins Plan after Yvonne Davis's retirement.
- That Chapter 101 is in the final stages of the Administrative Procedures Act (APA).
- That she continues to be heavily involved with superintendents, the public, and the legislature to answering questions listening to their concerns regarding the consolidations proposals in this legislative session.
- That the Department of Education has submitted its budget recommendations.
- That the Department is moving ahead with the proposed rule changes to Chapter 131, The Maine Federal, State, and Local Accountability Standards.

Joyce McPhetres disconnected at 2:30 p.m.

### **CHAIR'S REPORT:**

- That he has spent a great deal of time in Augusta listening to the Legislature deliberate on the various consolidation proposals.
- That he has been asked to submitted testimony on LD 791, An Act to Ensure Equitable Geographic Representation on the State Board of Education. How would the Board like to respond to this LD?

After some discussion the Board agreed that it may not be in it's the best interest to submit testimony, but that the Legislative Liaison Committee should discuss the LD the submit testimony as needed. A motion was made to authorize the Legislative Liaison Committee to proceed as directed by the members of the Board regarding LDs needing testimony.

MOVED by Ellie Multer, seconded by Jack Norris, and unanimously voted by those present to authorize the Legislative Liaison Committee to act as necessary and submit testimony as needed.

### **BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:**

#### **Jack Norris:**

- That the Making the Grade Award application deadline has passed and the committee will begin to review the applications.

#### **Phil Dionne:**

- That he would like to congratulate Jim on his success in getting the Education Committee members to meet with the Board during lunch on January 27.
- That when he attended the apprenticeship meeting, he learned that appears to be data indicating that enrollment is increasing in the apprenticeship program.
- That he participated as a review team member for review of St. Joseph's program review.
- That Career Technical Education (CTE) held another meeting in an effort to find a solution to funding CTE in the Essential Programs and Services (EPS) model.
- That he attended an all day Jobs for Maine Graduates Council meeting in Orono.
- That he attended a stakeholders meeting regarding the Carl Perkins Plan. There is a lot occurring within CTE and it would be a good idea to have quarterly updates on the Board's agenda to keep the Board abreast of what is coming up.

Ann Weisleder:

- That she is participating as a member of the National Association of State Board's of Education (NASBE) study group, English Language Learners. The group will be meeting again in March.
- That she will be participating as a member of the review team for the Unity College program review.

Ellie Multer:

- That she attend a meeting sponsored by the Transportation Department and the Bicycle Coalition. The focus of the meeting was to get kids who are near enough to their local schools to ride bicycles or walk to school instead of riding busses or being driven by parents.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

State Board of Education unanimously agreed to adjourn the February 20, 2007, meeting at 2:55 p.m.